

What is AMA?

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) provides cost-share assistance on a voluntary basis to agricultural producers to mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices on private lands .

What does AMA pay for?

In Massachusetts, AMA cost-share payments are available to agricultural producers to voluntarily mitigate the risk of drought on existing crop land. Program participants may develop or improve sources of irrigation water supply, construct new or reorganize irrigation delivery systems on existing cropland. Incentive payments are available to encourage producers to adopt irrigation water management.

How is AMA funded?

Funds for AMA come from the federal government's 2002 Farm Bill appropriations and are administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) jointly with the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMA).



How does AMA work?

NRCS will share 75 percent of the average cost for the implementation of eligible conservation practices. Landowners must agree to maintain the cost-shared practices for the life of the practice. Cost-share payments are limited to \$50,000 per person, per year. Contracts last a minimum of three years and a maximum of 10 years.

A conservation plan is required for the area covered in the application and becomes the basis for developing the AMA contract. NRCS staff will work with the landowner to develop a plan.

Who can participate?

All agricultural producers who have an interest in the farm and have control of the land; or individuals, entities, or members of joint operations that have separate and distinct interest in the land or crop may participate.



What land is eligible?

Existing cropland is eligible for AMA in Massachusetts.

How do I apply?

To apply, applicants must complete an application (CCC-1200 and 1200A), and submit it in person, by phone, e-mail, fax, or letter to a local NRCS employee or office. Applications may be submitted at any time. Applications taken after the ranking cut-off date will be held and processed after the next application cut-off date.

Visit the NRCS office at your local USDA Service Center to request an AMA application. The application (form CCC-1200) is also available on the web at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ama.

How does the ranking process work?

The following guidelines are used in ranking and selecting applications:

- Crops grown for food or fiber are given priority over production of feed for livestock and other crops.
- Droughty soils are given more weight than more productive soils with greater available water capacity.
- Irrigation systems are prioritized on the basis of which type of project most reduces current crop losses--(new, expanded or improved systems).
- Water source is evaluated in more detail as needed; projects with the least amount of development needs are given priority.



Conservation Practices

Cropland (except cranberries):

- Irrigation storage reservoir
- Well
- Critical area planting
- Irrigation water conveyance
- Sprinkler irrigation system
- Micro-irrigation system
- Irrigation water management

Cranberry operations:

- Irrigation storage reservoir
- Well
- Critical area planting

AMA sign-up: January 1 thru April 1

Cost List



- Cost-share rate on structural practices is 75 percent of average cost
- Water source development/improvement practices are funded at 75 percent of actual cost not-to-exceed \$10,000 per contract.
- Irrigation water management is an incentive payment equal to \$10/acre/year for three years.

USDA-NRCS Offices

Massachusetts State Office

451 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002
413-253-4350

Barnstable Field Office

270 Communications Way, Unit 1G, Hyannis, MA 02601
508-771-6476

Greenfield Field Office

55 Federal Street, Room 290, Greenfield, MA 01301
413-772-0384 ext 3

Hadley Field Office

195 Russell Street, Suite B6, Hadley, MA 01035
413-585-1000 ext 3

Holden Field Office

52 Boyden Road, Room 10, Holden, MA 01520
508-829-4477 ext 3

Pittsfield Field Office

78 Center Street, Suite 206, Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-443-1776 ext 3

Westford Field Office

319 Littleton Road, Suite 302, Westford, MA 01886
978-692-1904 ext 3

West Wareham Field Office

15 Cranberry Highway, West Wareham, MA 02576
508-295-5151 ext 2

For more information on the
Massachusetts AMA program visit:

www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ama.html

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United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Agricultural Management Assistance

in Massachusetts

